(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) In India, patents are granted to all eligible persons, whether individuals or institutions, who desire to seek protection of their inventions, in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970. The Patent Office maintains information about patent applications in two basic categories, that is, Indian and foreign.

(b) and (c) The details of patent applications filed by Indian applicants in the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	Applications filed
1998-99	2247
1999-2000	2206
2000-2001	2179

The details of patents granted to Indian applicants in the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	Patents granted
1998-99	645
1999-2000	557
2000-2001	399

This data is inclusive of applications filed and patents granted to Indian scientific institutions such as Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), etc.

Proposals for airports in U.P.

†*382. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of proposals from Uttar Pradesh for national/ international airports pending with Government;

(b) the details of the locations thereof; and

(c) the status of each of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) A proposal for developing an airport in Greater Noida by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh was received by the Government of India. However, Government of India pointed out that the existing airport at Delhi can fulfil the future demands of the area on a long term basis. It was further pointed out that the proposed airport falls in the approach funnel of the main runway at Delhi Airport, and is very close to the Tilpat Firing Range of the Indian Air Force. The Government of Uttar Pradesh was advised to undertake techno-economic feasibility study by a professional body so that this airport could be located at a suitable location.

Government of Uttar Pradesh have reviewed the proposal and intimated that the proposed airport is being positioned as an international airport to cater for tourist traffic for Agra at a location to be duly approved by the Government of India, selected on the basis of the techno-economic feasibility report. The State Government is yet to submit a proposal in this regard.

De-reservation of vacancies

*383. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies/posts reserved for SC, ST and OBCs are being 'de-reserved' and filled by 'others' despite ban on 'de-reservation' of vacancies reserved for SC, ST and OBCs w.e.f. 1st April, 1989 by DoPT OM. No. 36012/6/88-Estt. (SCT) dated the 25th April, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the vacancies/posts reserved since 1st April, 1989 for SC, ST and OBCs which have been de-reserved and filled by others in